

X brought the veteran back to the stage again, and at seventy-sis he accepted the London Embassy from Louis Philippe. The last two and a half volumes contain his correspondence, official and unofficial, during the four years of his residence in England, but the detailed record of his Indian Summer is no consolation for the calculated meagreness of the story of his prime.

The note of the book was struck in a declaration of 1836 which was appended to the will of 1834. " Je refl^{chis} long-temps et ie m'arretai 4 Tidfe de servir la France, comme France, dans quelque situation qu'elle fut: dans toutes il y avait quelque bien i faire. Aussi ne me fais je aucun reproche d'avoir send tous les regimes depuis le Directoire jusqu'i l'dpoque oil j'6cris.... Passerdel'etat dans lequel etait k France au regime royal ftait impossible. Il fallait des regimes intermediaires. . . . Je servais done Bonapatte Empeireur, comme je Favais servi Consul: je le servis avec d6vouement, tant que je pus croire qu'il 6tait lui-meme d^{voe} uniquement & k France. Mais d&s que je le vis commencer les entreprises r^{evolutionnaires} qui Font perdu, je quittai le minist&re, ce qu'il ae m'a jamais pardonne." In the course of his work he returns to this theme again and again. " I loved Napoleon despite his faults. At first I felt drawn to him by the magnetism of his genius. I enjoyed his glory and the rays which fell on his collaborators. I served him with devotion and loyally told him the truth. I have never conspired except when I had the majority of Frenchmen as my accomplices and sought widrthem the welfare of the country. ... If I made mistakes, I always loved France and served her faithfully."

The record of Talleyrand's unhappy childhood is brief, the sketch of France before the Revolution tantalizingly meagre, the account of the States General scarcely

even an outline.
He was a Liberal Conservative of the school of
Mirabeau,
looking to England for the model of
Constitutional Monarchy.
He loved the Comte d'Artois, (future Charles X),
he tells us,
but strongly disapproved his decision to leave
the country,
arguing that the emigration of the leaders of the
nobility would
worsen the situation of those who remained. As
a moderate
reformer Talleyrand was a lonely man. The
National Assembly,
he declares, committed thousands of faults,
fascinated by
the chimaeras of equality and the sovereignty of
the people.
He is still more severe in his elaborate study of
Philippe
Egalité, who is denounced as dissolute, lazy
and mediocre.